

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the final Office Action dated February 19, 2008, are respectfully requested and in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 4, 11, and 27-38 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 4 and 11 have been amended, and Claims 27-38 have been added. Claims 4, 11, 32, and 37 independent. Support for the new claims and claim changes can be found in the original disclosure and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 10 through 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0016378 A1 (Ozawa, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 B2 (Fritz, et al.).

Response to Claim Rejections

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-26 have been canceled without prejudice, Claims 4 and 11 have been amended, and Claims 27-38 have been added. Applicants submit that as amended, the pending claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 4 relates to a digital camera which can be directly connected to a printer, and has a function of directly transmitting a plurality of images to the printer. The camera comprises a display unit.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite a selection unit configured to select a plurality of images to be printed, a print instruction transmitting unit configured to transmit, to the printer, a print instruction indicating that the plurality of images selected by the selection unit are to be printed, and an image transmitting unit configured to transmit, in response to receiving from the printer a request for transmitting an image to be printed, the requested image to the printer. Claim 4 has also been amended to recite that the display unit is configured to display, in response to receiving from the printer, a reception end message indicating that all the images to be printed have been received, information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer may disconnect before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the images to be printed.

By this arrangement, 1) the user rather than the digital camera can decide on the timing of disconnection, and 2), even if the digital camera receives the reception end message from the printer, the digital camera can maintain the connection with the printer while displaying information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer may disconnect, so that the user can select another image to be printed after receiving the reception end message from the printer.

In contrast, the citations to Ozawa, et al. and Fritz, et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest a digital camera comprising a display unit configured to display, in response to receiving from a printer, a reception end message indicating that all images to be printed have been received, information indicating that the communication between the

digital camera and the printer may disconnect before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the images to be printed, as recited by amended Claim 4. Rather, the citation to Ozawa, et al. is understood to disclose a digital camera a) that automatically disconnects from a printer after transmitting the image data to the printer, and b) that is silent about displaying information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer may disconnect after transmitting all of the images. And the citation to Fritz, et al. is understood to disclose that a client apparatus transmits a request of print job termination to the print server; this citation is not understood to disclose or suggest a digital camera that receives a reception end message indicating all of the selected images having been received.

Since the citations to Ozawa, et al. and Fritz, et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest at least one feature of amended Claim 4, Applicants submit that the Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 4 be withdrawn. And because Claim 11 has been amended in a similar manner and because independent Claims 32 and 37 are corresponding method claims, these claims are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 11 be withdrawn and that Claims 32 and 37 be held to be allowable over the citations to Ozawa, et al. and Fritz, et al.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims are respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue of the application is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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